RBI Credit to Central Government

2989. SHRI KAMAL MORARKA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the net RBI credit to the Central Government has crossed the limit agreed to with the IMF and also that of the budget estimates for 1991-92;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof;

(c) what steps have been taken to reduce Government's expenditure; and

(d) whether capital expenditure is being curtailed in order to compensate for the excess revenue expenditure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) and (b) The increase in net RBI credit to Central Government is estimatd at Rs. 8800 crores in Revised Estimates 1991-92, as compared to Rs. 7719 crores in the Budget. These are estimated figures at the end of the year and correspond to the figures indicated in Finance Minister's Letter of Intent sent to the IMF. During the course of the year the figures fluctuate depending on the daily inflows and outflows.

(c) Government have taken a number of steps to reduce expenditure. Besides curbs on expenses on travel, fuel, telephones, furnishings, seminars, publications, etc. a review of various schemes has also been undertaken so that low priority schemes are phased out. Administered prices are also adjusted wherever necessary.

(d) Capital expenditure in Revised estimate is placed at Rs. 16098 crores against Rs. 16657 crores in BE 1991-92. But this reduction is wholly due to decrease in states' share of small savings on account of fall in collections and change in pattern of Central assistance to the States of Jammu & Kashmir and Assam from 70% loan and 30% grant to 90% grant and 10% loan.

Re-Examination of FERA Violation by Ajitabh Bachchan

2990. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a newsitem that appeared on the Indian Express, New Delhi dated the 18th December, 1991 under the caption 'Ajitabh's Swiss flat case Shekhar Government bullied into withdrawal;

(b) if so, whether Government propose to re-examinating the case of FERA violation by Shri Ajitabh Bachchan; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) The news item has come to Government's notice.

(b) and (c) No, Sir. The Foreign Exchange Regulation Appellate Board, an appellate authority set up under Foreign Exchange Regulation Act, 1973, examined the case on merits and held that there was no case for intereference with the order of the Adjudicating authority dropping the proceedings against Shri Ajitabh Bachchan.

Low NRI Capital Investment

2991. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the Economic Times of the 17th February, 1992 captioned "Policy to attract NRI investment gets poor response";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the failure of recently announced schems to attract NRI capital; and

(c) what steps are being considered by Government to augment NRI Investment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI RAMESHWAR THAKUR): (a) to (c) The News item in the Economic Times dated 17.2.1992 has come to Government's notice. The factual position is that under the recently

announced scheme for 100% NRI investment in high priority industries, seven cases involving an investment of Rs. 290 lakhs approximately have been approved by RBI. Besides, approvals have been given by Special Approvals Committee (NRI) of Ministry of Industry involving an amount of Rs. 478 lakhs in its meeting held in February, 1992.

The Government have also received substantial amounts in following two new schemes announced by it as given below:

(i)	India Development Bonds	US$ 1292.00 million approx. £ Stg.180 million approx.
(ii)	Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Remittances Scheme Both the schemes closed on 31.1.92.	Rs. 2137.13 crores.

Supply of Newspaper and Magazines to Government Officials and Ministers

2992. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Goverment officers of the rank of Deputy Secretaries and above and Ministers of all categories are provided newspapers and magazines at Government expense;

(b) if so, what is the amount of expenditure incurred by Government every year on this account;

(c) what are the reasons for which such facility is given;

(d) whether Government propose to stop this practice; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (e) As per provisions contained in the Delegation of Financial Power Rules, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have full powers to purchase official as well as non-official publications including books, newspapers, maps, magazines and other periodicals according to their individual requirements. They are also competent to decide the levels upto which such books, newspapers, magazines etc. shall be made available. The object behind making available such newspapers, books etc., is to keep Ministers/officers etc., abreast with national and international developments on broad sepectrum of issues including those pertaining to fiscal, economic, political, social cultural, health and other matters and also developmental activities in various areas of administration so as to help them to discharge their functions efficiently and effectively. The expenditure figures are maintained by the concerned Ministries/ Departments and are not required to be maintained centrally.

Callous Attitude of LIC Towards Claimants

2993. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the Times of India, Business Section of the 7th February, 1992 Captioned "Time to discipline Callous LIC";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the callous attitude of LIC towards claimants;

(c) what is the number of claims which were rejected by LIC in 1990-91;

(d) what are the safeguards available to the public against the bureaucracy in LIC; and

(e) whether Government will involve consumer groups as a restraining force in LICs dealings with the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yer Sir. It is not correct to say that Life Insurance Corporation of India is callous towards the claimants as alleged in the news item. On the other hand, LIC has set up Claims Review Committees both at Central and Zonal levels to review the repudiated claims on representation. After such a review, ex-gratia payments can also be mde by the LIC in individual cases based on merits.

(c) to (e) During the year 1990-91, out of about 1,88,130 claims only 1,504 claims were rejected which constitutes only about 0.8%. Even in such cases where claims have been repudiated